



Passion, Humiliation, Revenge: Hatred in Man-Woman Relationships in the 19th and 20th Century Russian Novel

By Rina Lapidus

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This book reveals the phenomenon in Russian prose in which a male protagonist finds himself perpetuating a cycle of passion, humiliation, and revenge within his relationships with women. By examining the mental and emotional state of the male protagonist who finds himself in a sexual situation, Rina Lapidus explores how his passion for a woman leads the man into an encounter that causes him humiliation and ends up eliciting a powerful desire on his part to punish the woman who initially arouses his erotic feeling. The male protagonist directs his fury at the woman, seeking vengeance because of the shame he has suffered.

Lapidus shows how the man sees himself as a highly spiritual being and finds it difficult to come to terms with his sexual nature. The author argues that this denial of desire leads the man to take out his frustration with himself on the woman, projecting all of his faults and guilt onto her. When the woman brings the male protagonist low, his thirst for revenge becomes a powerful driving force in his life that eventually brings about his downfall. This book will be of interest to those studying in the areas of Russian literature, psychology, and gender studies.

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Editorial Review

Review

Lapidus admirably assembles a range of a material that works within her paradigm. While she treads familiar ground with her analysis of *Anna Karenina*, her treatment of Turgenev is more innovative....this volume helps to supplement the growing scholarship on gender and sexuality in Russian literature and will hopefully spur on further research in the field. (*Canadian Slavonic Papers, March-June 2010*)

Professor Irina Lapidus offers a provocative study of male/female relationships in Russian literature.... There are some interesting insights provided in the course of her exposition, which will make the study a valuable read particularly for those with an interest in gender studies in Russian literature.... Lapidus sets forth a provocative thesis with interesting and original arguments. (*Slavic and East European Journal*)

About the Author

Rina Lapidus is associate professor of comparative literature at Bar-Ilan University in Israel.

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